production of SSIs in the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (projected) have been 10.9%, 12.3% and 12.6% respectively. The State-wise information is not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) Promotion and development of MSMEs is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. To assist the States/UTs and supplement their efforts in this regard, the Central Government implements several schemes/ programmes for promotion and development of SSIs. These, *inter alia,* include, (i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/institutions, (ii) assistance for (a) technology upgradation, (b) marketing, (c) integrated infrastructural development, (d) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2nd October, 2006.

Besides, Government implements the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) specifically designed for creating self-employment opportunities among unemployed youth.

Gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon rail track

599. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that wild lives are facing dangers due to conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon railway track;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Expert Committee was formed to suggest measures to safeguard wildlife;

(c) if so, whether Government would agree to implement all recommendations of the Expert Committee; and

(d) if so, time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the recommendations had already been implemented.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Purpose Vehicle

600. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to meet the growing demand of rolling stocks, the Railways have decided to form a special purpose vehicle with an authorized paid-up capital of Rs. 500 crore so that SPV will undertake resource mobilization, provide consultancy to the existing production units for technology upgrade and assist the joint venture in sourcing human resources; and

(b) whether manufacturing units would form joint venture with internationally renowned OEMs to make rolling stock and critical components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Railways is exploring the feasibility of Joint Venture with Private Sector Participation in setting up the following manufacturing units:

1. Diesel Loco Factory at Marowhra, Bihar.

2. Electric Loco Factory at Madhepura, Bihar.

3. Coach Factory at Rae-Bareli, Uttar Pradesh.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

601. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the biggest infrastructure project *i.e.* Dedicated Freight Corridor Project between Mumbai-New Delhi and Ludhiana-Son Nagar being undertaken by the Railways;

(b) the decisions which have been taken or proposed to be taken in respect of financial rehabilitation of people who stand displaced by these projects as well as Japan International Co-operation Agency's suggestions; and

(c) the details thereof and by when it would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Indian Railways had proposed a 2700 Kilometers long Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Eastern Corridor from Ludhiana to Son Nagar — 1279 Kilometers and Western Corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai to Dadri/Tughlakabad—1483 Kilometers) to handle the large increase in volume of traffic over the coming years.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been set up to implement the project. RITES have submitted a Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) Report in January, 2007 and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have submitted its final feasibility study report in October, 2007.

(b) and (c) No decision on the financial rehabilitation of people likely to be displaced has been taken at present. The projects have not reached the stage requiring such a decision.

Revamping the Mumbai Suburban Railway System

602. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to revamp the Mumbai Suburban Railway System for bringing down the over crowding during peak hours, peak direction and segregate the suburban train operation from the main line passenger and freight services;

(b) if so, the details of proposals which are under consideration by indicating financial requirements; and

(c) by when they would be implemented?